

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1145**  
**Asked on 3 September 2009**

Mr Moorhead asked the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)-

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise the House of any recent initiatives to protect vulnerable workers in the contract cleaning industry working in government owned and leased buildings in the Brisbane CBD?

**ANSWER:**

On 2 September 2009, the Premier and Minister for the Arts congratulated cleaners, the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union and my department on the successful outcome of the negotiations which will lift conditions in the contract cleaning industry.

In support of the principle of fairer conditions for workers in the cleaning industry, I was pleased to also announce some changes in the arrangements for government cleaning contracts. The changes are a revision of the non-price criteria used to evaluate tenders submitted for these contracts in the Brisbane central business district.

Non-price evaluation criteria are included in the tendering and selection process to support government policy. Their inclusion is based on the recognition that:

- the lowest priced conforming tender does not necessarily represent best value for money
- specific requirements considered important or critical may be best satisfied by contractors who can demonstrate specific skills or experience
- non-price evaluation criteria have a role in the realisation of government priorities and outcomes.

The Department of Public Works, through its business unit QBuild, has revised the non-price criteria to be considered and addressed by those tendering for government cleaning contracts. The new evaluation criteria became applicable for all government cleaning contracts let by QBuild in the Brisbane CBD from 1 October 2009. Other government agencies have also been asked to ensure that they apply the new criteria for any cleaning contracts they may let in the CBD from 1 October 2009.

These non-price criteria will comprise up to 30% of the evaluation of cleaning tenders, the balance of the evaluation will be based on price. The non-price criteria include the following areas:

- workplace health and safety
- employee training
- environmental management
- fair engagement, with maximum areas per hour
- quality assurance
- the contractor's past and current work performance
- the extent to which employees are paid in accordance with an industrial instrument considered the best market rate in the industry.

The specifics of these criteria and any associated changes to the conditions of contract that may be required are currently being reviewed. This task is underway and the new arrangements will be set in place for CBD cleaning contracts let in the future.